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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSM-03 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /087 W
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R 031612Z MAR 78
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1645
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IS
SUBJ: DAYAN'S SPEECH TO ZIONIST CONGRESS

REF: (A) JERUSALEM 577, (B) TEL AVIV 2703

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. THE GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE ISSUED THE FOLLOWING CLARIFICATION TO FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN'S FEB 27 SPEECH TO THE ZIONIST CONGRESS.

2. "PUBLICATION OF PART OF A STATEMENT BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER AT THE 29TH ZIONIST CONGRESS WITH REFERENCE TO SETTLEMENT IN THE AREAS WAS OUT OF CONTEXT, AND WAS LIABLE TO GIVE A WRONG IMPRESSION OF WHAT MR. DAYAN HAD SAID. THIS WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POINTED OUT TODAY BY THE SPOKESMAN OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

3. IN HIS STATEMENT - MADE IN REPLY TO TWO QUESTIONS BY CONGRESS DELEGATES ON THE CABINET'S RESOLUTION OF SUNDAY (26 FEBRUARY) REGARDING ESTABLISHMENT OF SETTLEMENTS IN THE AREAS - THE FOREIGN MINISTER, REFERRING TO THE RAFAH SALIENT,

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SAID THAT EVER SINCE ITS FORMATION THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT HAS NOT DECIDED ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SINGLE ADDITIONAL SETTLEMENT IN THE REGION, NOR HAD IT ESTABLISHED ANY SUCH SETTLEMENT.

4. WITH REFERENCE TO JUDEA AND SAMARIA, THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT AT SUNDAY'S CABINET SESSION CONFIRMATION WAS GICEN TO A IREVIOUS CABINET RESOLUTION OF EARLY JANUARY 1978, TO ESTABLISH THREE SETTLEMENTS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF I.D.F. CAMPS - ONE OF WHICH HAD (ALREADY) BEEN ESTABLISHED, A RESOLUTION BEING TAKEN TO ESTABLISH THE OTHER TWO IN DUE COURSE - IN ADDITION TO THE SETTLEMENTS ESTABLISHED IN THE REGION IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1977."

END UNCLASSIFIED.

5. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. COMMENT: RATHER THAN CONTRIBUTING TO AN UNDERSTANDING OF GOI SETTLEMENT POLICY, DAYAN'S SPEECH AND THIS CONSEQUENT CLARIFICATION IS CONSIDERED BY MANY ISRAELIS AS YET ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF GOVERNMENT CONFUSION OR DISINGENUOUS-NESS. EVEN THE NORMALLY HAWKISH MAARIV EDITORIALIZED THAT ONLY THREE WEEKS AGO BEGIN PROUDLY TOLD THE HERUT CENTRAL COMMITTEE THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD ESTABLISHED 13 NEW SETTLEMENTS. NOW, DAYAN IS BOASTING OF NOT SETTING UP NEW SETTLEMENTS. IN ASKING WHO IS RIGHT, MAARIV RAISES THE QUESTION OF GOVERNMENT CREDIBILITY.
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